May 1987

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways

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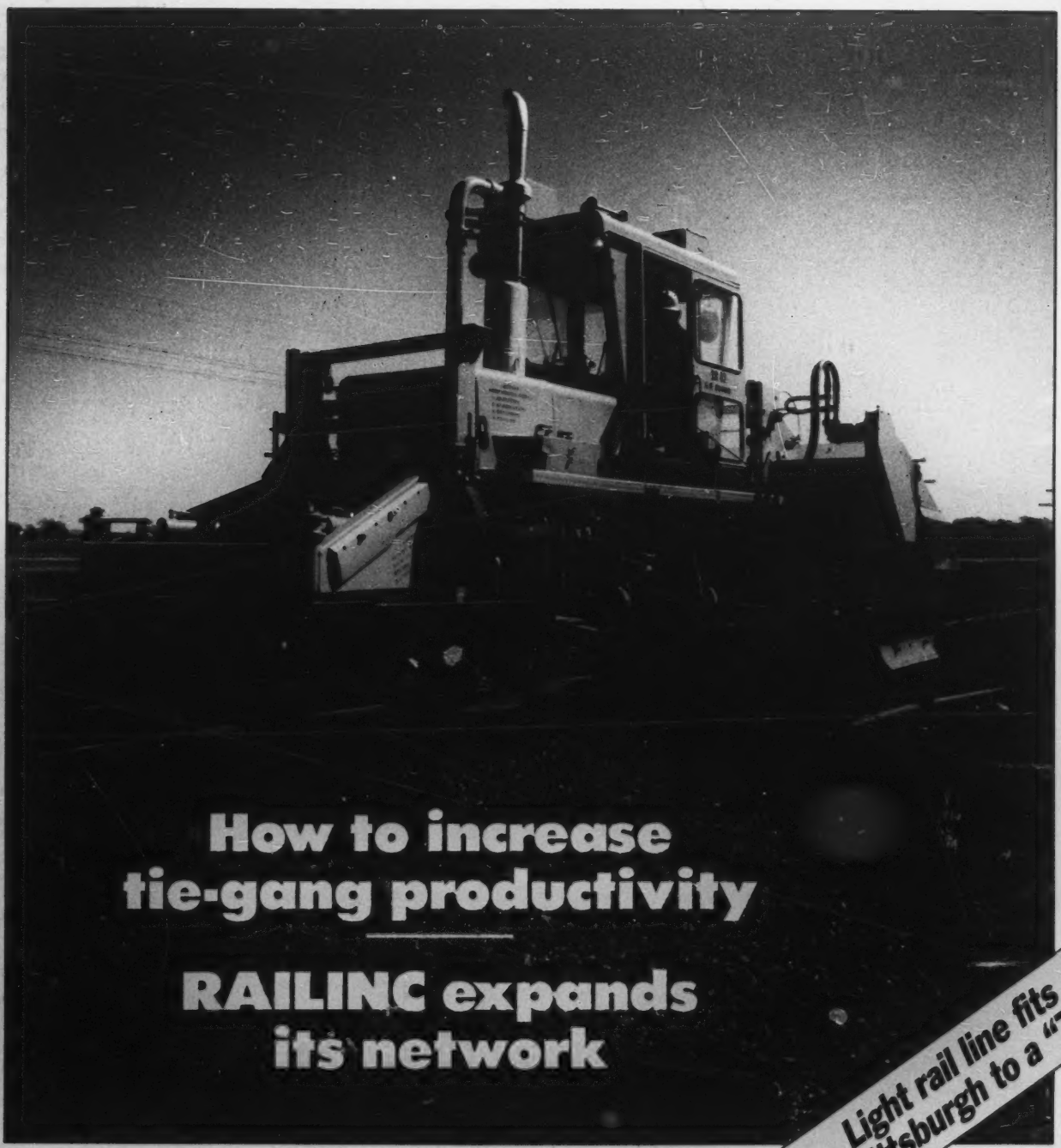

How to increase tie-gang productivity

RAILINC expands its network

Light rail line fits Pittsburgh to a "T"

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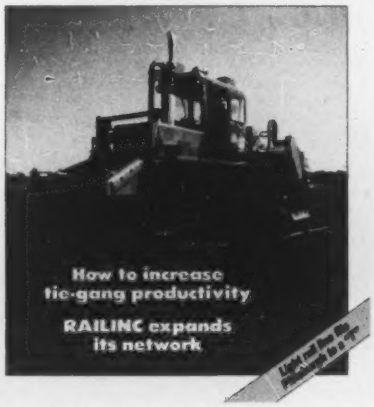

Cover photo, Union Pacific

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In just four years, Santa Fe's mechanized tie gangs nearly doubled their daily production. The practices of CSXT and Union Pacific also provide useful pointers.

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A spring-nose-frog turnout mounted on concrete ties is going into test service on a heavy haul coal line. A similar turnout with wood ties was put in last year.

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Plagued by funding delays and some faulty construction, the Stage I LRT system is at last complete and is set for a ceremonial opening late this month.

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Published monthly by the Simmons-Boardman Publishing Corporation, 345 Hudson St., New York, N.Y. 10014 USPS 449-130, Vol. 188, No. 5

Subscription rates to all railroad, rail rapid transit employees and industrial traffic department employees in the U.S. possessions, Canada and Mexico: $12 one year, $22 two years; all other countries $35 one year. All other subscriptions in the U.S., Canada and Mexico: $30 one year; all other countries: $50 one year. All subscriptions payable in advance. Single copies $3 plus postage and handling, except special issues. Call toll free (800) 228-9670 Mon-Fri., 9a.m.-5p.m. to place order. In Nebraska call (402) 346-4300. Copyrighted © 1987.

Address all subscriptions, change of address and correspondence concerning them to Subscription Dept., Railway Age, 345 Hudson St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Printed at Hughes Printing Co., 34 North Crystal St., East Stroudsburg, PA. 18301. Second Class postage paid by Simmons-Boardman Publishing Corp., 345 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014 ISSN 0033-8826. POSTMASTER—SEND change of address forms to Simmons-Boardman, 345 Hudson St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Market Outlook

Equipment

Canadian National: Delivery of 20 new SD50 locomotives from General Motors' Diesel Division is to be completed in June. The order is valued at $40 million (Canadian).

Southern Pacific Transportation: Ordered 60 microprocessor-equipped diesel-electric units at a cost of more than $60 million and has an option to acquire 20 additional units. General Electric will build 40 4-axle, 3,900 hp B-39-8 units for delivery in the third quarter of 1987; Electro-Motive Division of General Motors will build 20 4-axle, 3,800 hp GP-60 units for delivery in the first quarter of 1988. SPT is now testing three GP-60 prototypes, and has an option to acquire 20 additional GP-60s for delivery later in 1988.

Facilities

Amtrak: Awarded a contract valued at more than $3 million to Harmon Industries for the design, engineering, manufacture, delivery, and system integration for signaling equipment on the 55-mile Philadelphia to Atlantic City line. Noting that this is the largest order the company has ever received exclusively for Harmon equipment, the company's president, Robert E. Harmon, said the contract calls for major contributions from all of the Harmon subsidiaries. Modern Industries will supply cases, bungalows and signal hardware; Harmon Electronics, crossing warning systems and code systems; and Electro Pneumatic, coded track circuits and the new Electro Logic microprocessor interlocker.

Norfolk Southern: Awarded a multi-year contract to Harmon Industries for the supply of metal housing units for grade-crossing warning control and related equipment. The approximately $3-million annual contract runs through 1989. Norfolk Southern expects to take delivery of more than 100 cases each year of the contract.

PATH: Awarded $5.3 million in contracts for equipment to be installed in new substations and switching stations—$4 million to Control Power Corp. of Canton, Ohio, for ac and dc switchgear assemblies; and $1.3 million to BBC Brown Boveri of Blue Bell, Pa., for transformer/rectifier units.

Revenue freight carloadings

Commodity	April 11 week	April 4 week	March 28 week	March 21 week
Grain	26,310	26,325	25,744	26,894
Other farm products	3,379	3,190	3,777	4,179
Metallic ores	17,431	13,943	17,249	15,182
Coal	107,658	92,920	105,820	107,541
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,208	13,411	13,239	12,351
Nonmetallic minerals	9,193	10,350	8,809	10,206
Grain mill products	10,690	10,826	10,926	10,912
Food and kindred products	10,550	11,153	10,799	11,236
Primary forest products*	10,582	9,980	10,860	10,609
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,213	8,309	8,766	8,158
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,130	12,758	12,978	12,609
Chemicals and allied products	26,193	27,375	27,878	28,304
Petroleum products	4,719	4,794	4,694	4,952
Stone, clay and glass products	10,670	10,466	10,108	10,031
Coke	4,773	5,127	5,016	4,617
Metals and products	7,970	9,365	9,390	8,357
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,714	20,586	21,733	21,919
Waste and scrap materials	8,611	8,573	9,033	9,015
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	2,826	2,838	2,841	2,767
All other carloads	74,072	76,220	75,985	74,119
LCL traffic	95	118	138	121
Total Cars Loaded	**390,987**	**378,627**	**395,779**	**394,079**
% change from previous year	0.9	3.7	8.0	1.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	17.3	17.0	17.6	17.5
% change from previous year	1.0	5.9	6.8	1.1

Total:	1987	1986	% change
15 weeks	251.3	251.9	(0.2)

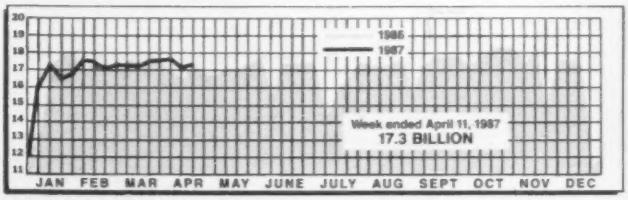
Piggyback loadings

	April 4 week	March 28 week	March 21 week	March 14 week
Trailers/containers	100,772	102,618	98,489	101,231

Cumulative total, 14 weeks		% change from 1986
Trailers/containers	1,333,855	3.7

Rail freight traffic trends

Billion ton-miles (Estimated)



Source: Association of American Railroads

Freight cars

	DELIVERED		ORDERED		ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED	
	1st quarter 1987	1st quarter 1986	1st quarter 1987	1st quarter 1986	1st quarter 1987	1st quarter 1986
Built new by carbuilders	2,687	1,561	3,860	3,177	3,850	3,375
Built new in RR shops	0	0	0	0	0	0
Built new—total						
Rebuilt	0	50	0	50	0	0
TOTAL	**2,687**	**1,611**	**3,860**	**3,227**	**3,850**	**3,375**
Locomotives (new and rebuilt)	22	58	N/A	N/A	30	199

Source: Transportation Div., AAR and American Railway Car Institute